

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1-12 as shown below.

Please **ADD** new claim 13 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely and transparently managing security associations of ~~Internet Protocol Security~~ internet protocol security, the system comprising:

an application device, ~~said application device comprising at least one management client for issuing security association management requests;~~

a service device ~~comprising an Internet Protocol Security service one or more Internet Protocol Security services, and a management server configured to receive for receiving said security association management requests issued from said at least one management client and for responding, in connection with said Internet Protocol Security service means, to said security association management requests received at said management server; and~~

a communication network configured to connect said application device to said service device; ~~for connecting said application device to said service device.~~

an internet protocol security service unit configured to provide one or more internet protocol security services comprising at least one of authentication services and encryption services, said internet protocol security service unit deployed in said service device;

at least one management client configured to issue security association management requests to create and manage, with a session key management protocol, security associations for use by said provided internet protocol security services, said at least one management client deployed in said application device; and

a management server configured to receive said security association management requests issued from said at least one management client and to respond, in connection with said internet protocol security service unit, to said security association management requests received at said management server, said management server deployed in said service device.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said application device further comprises an interface configured to provide communication ~~means for providing an interface for communicating between~~ said at least one management client associated with said application device and said management server.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said security association management requests comprise ~~include~~ at least one of adding requests configured to add ~~for adding~~ security associations, deleting requests configured to delete ~~for deleting~~ security associations, and querying requests configured to query ~~for querying~~ about security associations.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein said interface is further configured ~~means are arranged~~ to use sockets for communication with said management server.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein said interface comprises ~~means includes~~ data structures used in communication between said management client and said management server.

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, wherein said interface ~~means are~~ is implemented as a software library linked dynamically or statistically into a corresponding management client.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said internet protocol security ~~Internet Protocol Security~~ service unit and said management server are configured ~~arranged~~ to use a local communication channel for communications between said internet protocol security ~~Internet Protocol Security~~ service unit and said management server.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one application device comprises two or more management clients, and wherein at least two

of said management clients are configured to use different session key management protocols.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said communication network comprises a ~~Local Area Network~~ local area network.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of for remotely and transparently managing security associations of internet protocol security ~~Internet Protocol Security~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing one or more internet protocol security services ~~Internet Protocol Security services~~ comprising at least one of authentication services and encryption services ~~in a~~ from an internet protocol security service device ~~unit~~, said internet protocol security service unit being deployed in a service device;

issuing security association management requests to create and manage, with a session key management protocol, security associations for use by said provided internet protocol security services, from an application device at least one management client, said at least one management client being deployed in an application device;

receiving in said ~~service device~~ a management server said security association management requests issued from said ~~application device~~ at least one management client;
and

responding, in connection with an internet protocol security ~~Internet Protocol Security~~ service unit, to said security association management requests received ~~in said service device~~ at said management server, said management server being deployed in said service device,

wherein said application device ~~being~~ is connected to said service device by a communication network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said issuing comprises communicating at least one of said security association management requests issued from an application device and corresponding responses ~~are communicated~~ via an interface associated with said application device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said issuing comprises issuing said security association management requests comprising ~~include~~ at least one of adding requests for adding security associations, deleting requests for deleting security, and querying requests for querying about security associations.

13. (New) A system of remotely and transparently managing security associations of internet protocol security, the system comprising:

application means;

servicing means;

communication means for connecting said application means with said servicing means;

internet protocol security service means for providing one or more internet protocol security services comprising at least one of authentication services and encryption services, said internet protocol security service means being deployed in said servicing means;

at least one management client means for issuing security association management requests to create and manage, with a session key management protocol, security associations for use by said provided internet protocol security services, said at least one management client means being deployed in said application means; and

management server means for receiving said security association management requests issued from said at least one management client means and for responding, in connection with said internet protocol security service unit, to said security association management requests received at said management server, said management server means being deployed in said servicing means.